

C

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 24, 1993

C6+

SPORTS

Los Angeles Times

HIGHLIGHTS

SECOND VICTIM: Cleveland Indian pitcher Tim Crews died early Tuesday morning, becoming the second victim to die in a Florida boating accident that instantly claimed the life of teammate Steve Olin Monday. C1.

MIDDLE MAN: California Coach Todd Bozeman was caught in the middle when his boss, Lou Campanelli, was fired at Cal. It was difficult for Bozeman because he was made to feel that he had to prove he had nothing to do with Campanelli's firing. C1

NEARLY DONE DEAL: Free-agent quarterback Jeff Hostetler and the Raiders have agreed in principle on a three-year contract worth \$7.5 million. The sides are ironing out the final details, Hostetler's agent said. C2

NFL MEETINGS: NFL club owners, in an effort to get more plays into the game, voted to install a 40-second clock. They also voted to raise the roster limit to 53. C2

HOCKEY: The Kings made a promise to get younger, bigger and stronger, but, based on recent moves, the team will only get older. Some are joking that the team is closer to the American Hockey League championship than the Stanley Cup. C3



BRIAN VANDER BRUG / Los Angeles Times

MIGHTY DUCK: Jack Ferreira has been hired as general manager of the Mighty Ducks, Anaheim's NHL expansion team. C3

LOS ALAMITOS: Brilliant Colors, the top filly and mare pacer of the winter-spring meeting, saved her best for Friday's invitational handicap when she set the first track record of the meeting. C5

NEWSWIRE: Kristi Yamaguchi, the American star of the 1992 Winter Games at Albertville, France, has decided not to defend her figure skating title next year at Lillehammer, Norway. C5

KARROS HOT: Eric Karros hit a homer as the Dodgers beat Kansas City, 6-5. Karros has three homers in 15 spring games. C5

FAMILIAR OFFENSE: USC Coach George Raveling says that Minnesota, the team his Trojans will play tonight in a quarterfinal round game of the National Invitation Tournament, runs the same offense as Pepperdine, the team USC beat, 71-59, Monday night. C7

THE NBA

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Roundup C3

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Divers search Tuesday for clues near the dock where Tim Crews' boat crashed. Crews owned home in the background.

A Friend Tells What He Had Seen

■ **Scene:** Brigmond arrived near the lake shortly before crash. Boat went under dock.

By MARYANN HUDSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

CLERMONT, Fla.—By the time Perry Brigmond arrived at Tim Crews' house for dinner Monday night, Crews and teammates Steve Olin and Bob Ojeda were already fishing out on Little Lake Nellie.

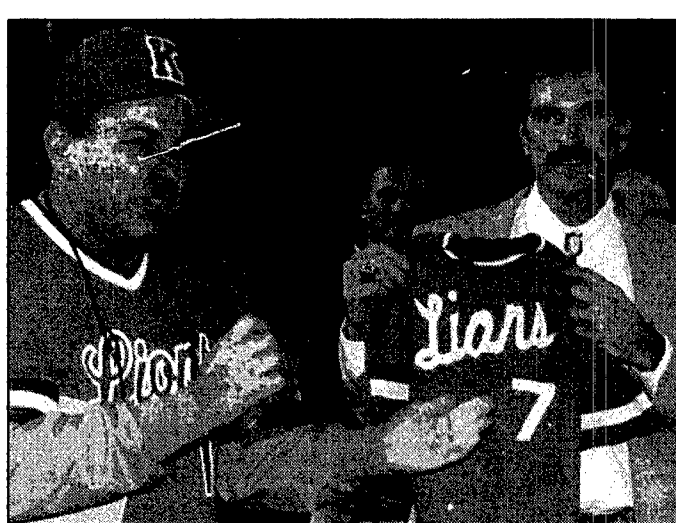
Dinner was at 6 p.m., but Brigmond didn't arrive until about 7:15. He ate quickly and then, along with Fernando Montes, the Cleveland Indians' strength trainer, drove Crews' truck down to the bank of the lake to try to spot the boat. It was dark, but the lake is small, and he spotted the light of Crews' boat about 240 yards away from him. He flashed the truck lights to let Crews know he had arrived so Crews would come back and pick him up.

That's where Crews was headed when his Skeeter bass boat hit the side of a neighbor's dock. The boat knocked out the side cross supports, went under the landing and stopped on the other side.

There wasn't a loud sound at impact, but Brigmond could tell the boat had hit something. He saw the boat light rise when the boat started up, then saw it fall. The boat stopped about 150 yards away from him, so he yelled out to them. He got no answer.

Brigmond and Montes jumped in the

Please see ACCIDENT, C8



Last Friday, pitcher Tim Crews (right) holds his jersey as it was retired during a ceremony at King High in Tampa. At left is King Coach Jim Macaluso.

A Kind You Don't Forget

Reporter Recalls How Crews Touched Many

By BILL PLASCHKE
TIMES STAFF WRITER

One of the strangest things in a very strange Dodger season last summer occurred in Cincinnati shortly after a game had been lost because of another bullpen collapse.

Tim Crews announced that he was not talking to the media.

"Hey, a lot of other guys in here don't

talk . . . it's my turn," he said.

Right. He stalked from his locker toward the showers. Five minutes later, he returned, smiling.

"OK, so what do you need?" he asked. "You know me. I can't be like those other guys."

Indeed, during his six seasons as a Dodger relief pitcher, Crews could not

Please see CREWS, C8

Crews Also Dies of Injuries

■ **Aftermath:** Pitcher was driving boat that rammed into Florida dock, killing Olin and injuring Ojeda. Beer and vodka found aboard.

By MARYANN HUDSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

CLERMONT, Fla.—Tim Crews, one of the most popular Dodgers among his teammates during his six seasons there, died early Tuesday morning after being hospitalized for head and lung injuries, becoming the second victim to die in the boating accident that instantly claimed the life of 27-year-old Steve Olin. Crews was 31.

Bob Ojeda, who was the third passenger in the boat, underwent surgery late Monday night for a severe head laceration and is listed in serious but stable condition at South Lake Memorial Hospital here. He is expected to fully recover.

Crews and Ojeda, who pitched for the Dodgers last season, were signed as free agents

over the winter by the Cleveland Indians. Olin was the Indians' top relief pitcher. Monday was the club's only day off during spring training, and Crews had invited a few teammates and friends to enjoy it at his new sprawling home that borders Little Lake Nellie.

But a day that began with horseback riding ended in tragedy when Crews, driving his 18-foot fiberglass Skeeter boat back to shore to pick up a couple of friends, hit a dock landing. The boat actually went under the landing, but the players suffered fatal and severe head injuries when their heads hit the landing overhang.

The actual cause of the accident won't be known for a few weeks. An autopsy was performed Tuesday on Olin and another will be done on Crews today to determine the causes of death and if either Crews or Olin had been drinking.

Several Florida television stations reported Tuesday night that one unidentified player had a blood-alcohol level of .17. "We haven't released any of that information at this time," said Cheryl Strouse, a spokesperson for the Florida Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission. "If it did get out, it was premature."

In Florida, a blood-alcohol level of .10 is considered legally drunk. The limit is the same for both cars and boats.

Lt. Bruce Cooper, fatality investiga-

Please see DEATHS, C8



Carlos Baerga reflects as he talks of his teammates' death.

Suns, Knicks in Big Brawl; Six Ejected

From Associated Press

PHOENIX—The New York Knicks lost three players after a brawl, then lost their poise in the second half.

And after the Phoenix Suns beat New York, 121-92, Tuesday night, the Suns were calling for the season-long suspension of Knick guard Greg Anthony, who charged on the court in his street clothes to punch Phoenix guard Kevin Johnson.

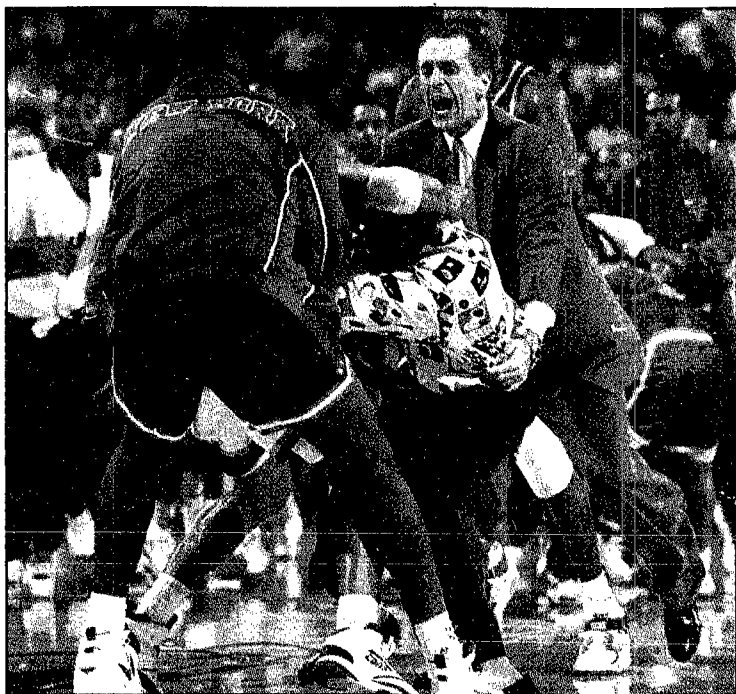
"I put a good pick on Doc Rivers and ran off the court. Then the guys proceeded to chase myself, so you have to defend yourself," said Johnson, the Suns' point guard. "That's just a typical brawl, no big deal. My only problem is how can a guy in street clothes come on the court and throw a cheap punch?"

Johnson sported a bruise on each side of his forehead.

"In my 27 years, I've never seen anything like that," Sun owner Jerry Colangelo said.

Colangelo said he planned to speak with NBA officiating director Rod Thorn.

Please see BRAWL, C7



New York Coach Pat Riley tries to separate players during a second-quarter brawl in Phoenix. Four Knicks and two Suns were ejected and Phoenix won, 121-92.

A Coup for Cal

Bozeman's Hiring Caused Resentment, but Bears Play On

By GENE WOJCIECHOWSKI
TIMES STAFF WRITER

ST. LOUIS—Todd Bozeman checked in to his hotel Monday afternoon only to find a small stack of messages, including one from Louisiana State Coach Dale Brown.

"Please call," it read.

Brown had left a similar message for the California coach at Bozeman's office in Berkeley.

"He's been calling me here, but I haven't had a chance to call him back yet," said Bozeman. "I would imagine he's going to explain to me what happened."

What happened is this: Brown failed to shake Bozeman's hand after Cal's victory over LSU in last Thursday's first round of the Midwest Regional. To make matters worse, Brown then predicted in the post-game press conference that California

Please see BOZEMAN, C7

DEATHS

Continued from C1

tor with the fish and game commission, said investigators found six full beer cans in an ice chest and a liter of vodka almost full. One empty beer can was also found on the boat.

John Hart, the Cleveland Indians' general manager, said he asked the team's strength and conditioning coach, Fernando Montes, who was at the house and one of the first at the scene, if the players were drunk. "He assured me that was not the case," Hart said.

It is not known how long the players had been fishing, but Perry Brimmond, who was waiting on shore with Montes for Crews to pick him up, estimates the players were on the lake anywhere from five to 30 minutes. Brimmond said the players had just finished dinner and had headed out on the lake shortly before he arrived at Crews' home, about 7:15 p.m. EST. The accident was first reported at 7:52 p.m.

Among the first to reach the players was neighbor Al Morgan, who said that Ojeda was asking about his friends.

"He [Ojeda] wanted to know why Mr. Olin wasn't moving around," Morgan said. "They reassured him [Olin] was doing fine and told him, 'We need to get you patched up and to the hospital.'"

Ojeda, who was alert and talked with a few teammates Tuesday, is considered to be the only witness to the accident. Cooper spoke with him briefly at the hospital.

Cooper said that Ojeda told him that Crews was driving and sitting on the right side of the boat, Olin was in the middle and Ojeda on the left. Had the boat been about five feet to the left, it would have missed the dock entirely. Crews was shielded in part by a windshield, but Olin and Ojeda had no protection. Olin was struck in the neck and Ojeda and Crews above their eyes.

Ojeda, who spoke with former New York Met teammate John Franco by phone Tuesday, told him that if he been sitting a couple inches higher, he would also be dead.

Cooper also said that the boat was found at "near-full throttle." But the boat traveled only about 80 yards before it hit the dock, and both the boat and dock suffered minimal damage.

The boat, equipped with a 150-horsepower engine, can reach speeds of 60 m.p.h. An Associated Press reporter who saw the boat after it was impounded Monday night said that the boat appeared to have little damage and the speedometer was stuck at 39 m.p.h.

Cliff Shelby, a spokesman for Ranger Boats, said that a collision at 40 m.p.h. would make a typical boat "fly apart." He also said that a collision at 5 or 10 m.p.h. could be potentially fatal "because there is no protection in a boat."

Dodger Manager Tom Lasorda said he first got a call from former Dodger infielder Dave Anderson at about 1 a.m. Tuesday, telling him about the accident and asking him if Crews' wife, Laurie, could call him. Laurie called Lasorda later that night from Orlando Regional

Medical Center, where Crews had been airlifted after the accident.

"She said it didn't look good and I tried to reassure her and told her I hope things improved," Lasorda said.

At about 6 a.m., Lasorda said he got the call that Crews had died. When he called Laurie a few hours later, she asked him to please talk to her oldest son, Shawn, who is 5.

"I tried to tell Shawn that God had taken his father and that his mother, sister and brother were very sad about it," Lasorda said. "I told him that he had to be strong and help his mother when he saw her cry and that he had to be kind to his sister and brother. It was difficult, but I talked to him like he was 14, not 5, and I think he understood."

As word spread among the Cleveland players, they began seeking one another, most of them meeting about 3 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, where many of the players are staying. Shortly after dawn, Indian Manager Mike Hargrove and Hart met with the ballplayers at the clubhouse. It was a meeting filled with emotion. Some players spoke. Most were too stunned.

In addition to Olin's relief role, Crews was a strong candidate for a bullpen job and Ojeda was expected to be in the rotation.

The Indians canceled Tuesday's and today's exhibition games, but plan to practice today. Acting commissioner Bud Selig, of the Milwaukee Brewers, asked all teams to fly their flags at half-staff for two days and observe a moment of silence before each game.

A memorial service for players and families will be held in Winter

Haven tonight. Andre Thornton, a former Cleveland player who is a minister, will conduct the service.

When Dodger reliever Roger McDowell heard about the accident, he drove to the hospital and spent all day Tuesday with Ojeda.

For Dodger players, coaches and club officials, the death of Crews hit hard.

"Tim was one of the most popular players we have ever had and the thing I'll always remember about him is that he enjoyed everything he did," said Fred Claire, the Dodgers' executive vice president. "Whether it was starting or relieving he never refused to take the ball. And he was always talking about fishing. I think that and his family were what Tim was all about. It's a tragedy."

In November, the Dodgers offered Crews to their triple-A club in Albuquerque, but Claire said the club was never trying to get Crews to go there. "He felt he could still pitch in the big leagues and we thought so too," Claire said. "But we were going to change the structure of our bullpen and Tim anticipated it. He came to me during the last series of the season and said no matter what happened he really enjoyed being with the Dodgers."

Lasorda said Crews did whatever he asked him to do. "He did a terrific job for us as a set-up or middle man, but last year I had to take him out of his element when Jay Howell got hurt," Lasorda said.

"He was one of the most self-confident players I've known. His wife was pregnant during his first spring with us and he came to me

and said, 'When she has the baby I'll only be away for a day.' It was as if he thought he was going to be the closer and the club couldn't afford to have him away more than a day."

"The saddest part is that both Tim and Steve have three young children that have to come to grips with it," Lasorda said. "I met Steve Olin a few months ago at a banquet in Portland, and he introduced me to his wife and said he really felt that he had come into his own last year and was looking forward to this season."

News of the players' deaths had quickly spread to all baseball camps.

In Tempe, Ariz., Angel starter John Farrell, who spent eight years in the Indians' organization, said he still was in shock Tuesday morning. He had spent an afternoon with Olin before spring training, remembering Olin's excitement about the new custom home that they were supposed to move into next month.

"It's hard to believe that I'm talking to him one day," Farrell said, "and the next day he's gone. I'm still in shock. He seemed like he had everything going for him. His career was starting to blossom."

And now this."

Angel reliever Chuck Crim talked about the days he fished with Crews, even persuading Crews to buy the boat that was used in the accident. "We were fishing fanatics when we played together," Crim said of Crews. "My God, I was the one who told him to get that Skeeter bass boat. Now, he's dead. That's tough to deal with."

Crews was invited to Indian camp as a nonroster player. Last season with the Dodgers, he was 0-3 with a 5.19 earned-run average in 49 games. Olin came up in the Indian organization in 1989 and became the stopper last season with 29 saves, an 8-5 record and a 2.34 ERA.

Ojeda joined the Indians after a 6-9 record and 3.63 ERA.

Crews is survived by his wife and children, Tricia, 9, Shawn, 5, and Travis, 2. Olin is survived by his wife, Patti, and children, Alexa, 3, and twins Garrett and Kaylee, 6 months.

Times staff writers Ross Newhan, Bob Nightengale and the Associated Press contributed to this story.

ACCIDENT

Continued from C1

truck and drove around the lake to the neighbor's dock. As they ran down the hill to the boat, Ojeda was screaming for help. He was the only one conscious.

Brimmond found Ojeda, Olin and Crews still sitting in the boat's bench seat, but their bodies were crumpled together and they were cut and bleeding. The boat had cleared the landing, but their bodies hadn't. The six-inch wood overhang hit Crews and Ojeda in the head and Olin in the neck.

The boat had traveled only about 80 yards toward shore before it hit the end of the dock, which juts out into the water about 50 yards. There were no lights on the dock.

Olin died immediately. Crews appeared to have a brain injury, so he was airlifted to the regional trauma center about 35 miles away in Orlando, where he died early Tuesday morning. Ojeda had a serious head injury, so he was taken to South Lake Memorial Hospital about 10 minutes away and went directly into surgery. He is in serious condition but stable and expected to fully recover.

The dock landing is still standing, the damage hardly noticeable. Atop the landing sits a park bench, empty and undisturbed.

Everything you see when you look east across Little Lake Nellie from the accident site belonged to Tim Crews—a sprawling ranch home and barn on 48 perfectly manicured acres and a newly planted pasture. Crews, his wife, Laurie, and three small children had just moved into the house two months ago, but he had been working on the house for more than a year. He had owned the boat

for about five years.

The Crewses already owned six horses and planned for more. Crews, who loved to fish, was from Florida. He grew up in Tampa and went to King High. On the Friday before he died, Crews attended a ceremony there to retire his jersey. The school painted a sign on the outfield wall in his honor and unveiled it during festivities.

Monday was the only day off the Indians had scheduled during spring training, so Crews decided to entertain in his new home. The afternoon was spent horseback riding and dinner was scheduled for 6 p.m. followed by night bass fishing. Brimmond, who has been Crews' friend for about five years, drove over from Orlando. They were fishing buddies and had lived near each other in Orlando before Crews moved here.

But on Tuesday afternoon, all Brimmond had left was memories, which he recounted sparingly as he stood on the sandy grass above the dock that had claimed his friend's life.

Patiently, he talked with the nonstop crowd of newspaper, television and radio reporters who had descended on this small, rural community in central Florida. Brimmond is in real estate and also builds houses and had helped Crews with his.

Brimmond had been asked to come to the site to help local authorities, not to meet with reporters. Still, he tried to answer all the questions, even the ones about whether he smelled alcohol on the players' breath or how fast the boat had been going. He politely replied that alcohol was the last thing he was thinking about when he reached the players. About the speed, Brimmond said the boat couldn't have been going fast, or else the players would have been thrown into the middle of the lake. Meanwhile, a few curious neigh-

bors from the other side of the lake stopped by from time to time. The boat—which suffered minor damage—had been pulled from the lake and impounded. There was a lot of blood on the carpet and seats, especially on the passenger side, where Olin and Ojeda were sitting. There was also blood on the left side of the boat covering part of the gas cap.

Divers had been searching for clues all morning for the cause of the accident, periodically returning with items such as seat cushions.

But the neighbors who actually live on the quiet cul-de-sac didn't know Crews very well, and the majority of them closed their doors Tuesday and stayed away.

"We know who he is and I have met Laurie, but they just moved here. I don't think it has even been two months," said Therese Neesi, who lives a couple of houses down from the accident but wasn't home when it happened.

Jetta Heinrich, who owns the dock that Crews hit, was sitting in her screened-in porch about 75 yards away when the accident happened. She said after the accident that she ran out with her portable phone and screamed to the players, but they didn't answer back. But Tuesday, she didn't want to talk anymore. She even turned away the crew from the television series, "A Current Affair," which she had agreed to be on.

Some reporters, speculating that Heinrich's dock extended out longer than others, actually walked the length of other docks for comparison, but they seemed to all be within the same range. Others had questions about lighting regulations for docks.

"She [Jetta] told us she saw the whole accident and she would go on the show, but then she talked with her lawyer and they told her to put a lid on it," said Tony Zumbado of "A Current Affair," who drove up from Miami to tape the show.

Heinrich had been the one who called for the ambulance.

"She didn't know what had happened either," Brimmond said. "Anybody who has ever fished has hit a boat dock, believe me. When the paramedic got here he told me it was the fourth time this year a boat had hit."

"But I didn't hear any impact. I was in shock when I got over here. It took me a minute to realize what happened. Their heads had hit the bottom of the railing and all three of them had massive head injuries."

"[Bob Ojeda] was yelling for someone to help Timmy and Steve, he was more concerned for them than for himself. But he was cut up pretty bad. And they were all still sitting on the bench seat."

The lake level is especially low, elevating the dock to about four feet above the water. Crews' boat sat about 2½ feet above the water and passengers on the bench seat sat up another 1½ feet. It put their heads level nearly with the overhang.

After the paramedics arrived, Brimmond drove back to Crews' house and picked up the players' wives. They had been watching television and had no idea anything had happened. Brimmond told them there had been an accident and they needed to come. After Crews was taken away by helicopter, Brimmond drove Laurie Crews to the hospital to be with her husband, who died at 5:40 a.m.

Brimmond fielded questions for nearly two hours, getting a respite periodically by walking behind the police lines and standing alone at the edge of the water. Sometimes he stood with his friend, Maxie Deitz, and just stared.

Brimmond was asked if he has wondered that he might have been in the boat had he been on time.

"That's not a role I'm supposed to play," he said. "That belongs to someone else."

CREWS

Continued from C1

be like so many modern-day baseball players.

He was a country boy from central Florida—Southern accent and cowboy boots included—who didn't know how to strut. He couldn't talk big, or act bad.

He didn't know how to be mean to a Dodger publicity intern, or scare a rookie female reporter.

He had no idea how to snub even one of the many fans who dared ask for his autograph.

Tim Crews was not a star, which did not separate him from 90% of major leaguers.

But he never acted like a star, which did.

Crews' tragic death after a boating accident Monday night might not be more than a footnote in the record books. His major league career, spent entirely with the Dodgers, yielded 11 victories, 13 defeats, 15 saves.

You booed him. I criticized him. And the game made him wait eight years before he could become a major leaguer for good.

But when he died, so did another piece of baseball's shrinking heart. Teammates endearingly called him, "The dirt farmer." The name was perfect.

He was as plain, and solid, as the stuff that makes up the Dodger Stadium pitching mound.

Some players are embarrassed to bring relatives into the clubhouse. Crews brought his father and brother in whenever the Dodgers played in Atlanta.

He would even ask the manager

to allow his brother to wear a uniform and run around the field during batting practice.

And whenever Crews' three children were at the game, he insisted on bringing his two sons into the clubhouse afterward. Nothing he did on the mound was as impressive as the sight of him holding Travis, 2, while chasing Shawn, 4, and trying to get dressed at the same time.

During the four years that I covered the Dodgers as a beat reporter for this newspaper, fans and friends asked me one question more than any other:

"What is Tim Crews doing on the team?"

My answer was always greeted, understandably, with a sigh of disbelief. He was the 10th and final pitcher on the team, the mop-up man for a struggling bullpen, the guy you saw mainly when the Dodgers were out of the game.

My answer, upon reflection, makes sense only now, after his death.

He was a Dodger pitcher, simply, because he loved being a pitcher.

He never complained when he didn't pitch for two weeks, then pitched for a week in a row. He never complained about being ignored by reporters and ridiculed on radio talk shows.

He didn't complain when the Dodgers, struggling with injuries, asked him to remain with the team while his wife, Laurie, gave birth to Travis. He stayed and didn't see his new baby for nearly two weeks.

Tom Lasorda has been known to speak in hyperbole, but believe whatever nice things he has said about Tim Crews since his death, because Lasorda loved Crews. He

loved Crews because Crews reminded Lasorda of himself.

During the bullpen's most difficult days, when injuries would force Crews into pressure situations he did not handle well, Lasorda stood behind Crews.

Lasorda always said that Crews was perfect as a 10th pitcher, and insisted that using him in any other situation was unfair to him.

"Hell no, we aren't going to get rid of him," Lasorda would say. "You need guys like that."

Crews was finally moved to triple A after last season because the Dodgers needed room on their major league roster. That was a move Crews refused to accept, forcing the Dodgers to make him a free agent.

But while Crews was a Dodger, he rewarded Lasorda with his willingness to step into any situation.

When Pittsburgh pitchers were brushing Dodger hitters off the plate several years ago, it was Crews who hit Gary Redus in the head, starting a brawl that led to a continuing feud between the teams. Crews said he was not throwing at Redus' head. But he said later that some Dodger needed to throw an inside pitch.

Crews also stepped forward during the 1990 championship race, when injuries left a hole in the Dodgers' rotation. With little notice, Crews was asked to start, for only the second time in his career, in Atlanta on Sept. 17.

He not only said yes, but gave up only one run in 5½ innings in a 5-2 victory.

Afterward, Crews' wife and children were waiting for him in the tunnel outside the visiting clubhouse. He was so excited, he

walked outside, half-dressed, to hug them.

Then he returned to the clubhouse and kept them waiting for nearly an hour while he politely answered questions from reporters who, until then, had mostly criticized him.

Tim Crews would laugh if he knew that people were writing nice things about him today. He would wonder what he had done to deserve it.

He would find it even funnier that, on the day his name finally crosses the lips of baseball fans everywhere, those fans at spring training sites are honoring him with a moment of silence.

Why can't a public-address announcer ever ask for a moment of cheering?

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The Center For Men offers the opportunity for a free consultation to discuss cosmetic surgery for immediate enhancement of the male body. Our highly skilled and experienced

physicians are leaders in the nation, revolutionizing the field of penile enlargement and lengthening. The Center For Men specializes in all areas of cosmetic surgery such as:

FOR FREE CONSULTATION CALL TODAY (800) 347-1999

- Liposuction
- Cheek Implants
- Chin Implants
- Pec - Calf
- Ears - Nose
- Tummy Tuck
- Impotency
- Penile Enlargement
- Penile Lengthening
- Scrotum Enhancement
- Facelift
- Eyelids
- Browlift
- Injections for Erections

The Center For Men, 9201 Sunset Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90069
The Clinic For Male Cosmetic & Sexual-Medical Needs